Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Draft Minutes of Meeting Thursday 28January 2021, 8pm, via Zoom

Present: Councillors Eleanor Jack, Jonathan Lawton, John Archer, Richard Jerman& Malcolm Gordon.

In attendance: County Councillor Julie Wisson, Richard Price, Nicola Kappler& Neil Bye.

Minutes: Rod Kerr (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: District Councillor Richard West.

Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests. None

To approve minutes of parish council meeting of 26 November 2020: The minutes were signed as a true & correct record by chairman Eleanor Jack.

Matters arising from those minutes not on the agenda: None

Report from County Councillor Julie Wisson: Following the recent floods, the County & District Councils as well as the Environment Agency are reviewing the areas affected and are looking at steps to mitigate the problem in the future.

Councillor Gordon noted that there has been flooding near Vicarage Farm. He also noted that the drains at the Waresley end of Gransden Lane seem to be working well. Cleaning the culverts and gullies is the responsibility of the County Council – this seems to be done reactively rather than routinely.

Councillor Jack thanked Councillor Wisson for her continued efforts.

Consultations and Procedures:

a) **East-West railway Consultation – update:** The councillors were concerned that the potential swathe of land including the latest proposed route of the East West Railway came slightly closer to Waresley than initially indicated. The concerns had been put to EWR who assured the council that there had been no change in the proposed swathe – the exact route is yet to be announced. The councillors agreed to write to Cambourne Council, EWR & our MP in support of the campaign to locate the Cambourne Station to the north rather than the south-west of the village – it was thought it would make more sense to locate it there and run the line nearer to the A428 – thus causing less damage to the countryside. Councillor Jack will prepare a letter & circulate to the other councillors before sending.

b) **A428 Upgrade– update:** Very little has happened since the last meeting, but it is assumed the project is progressing as planned. Submission of the Development Consent Order is scheduled for end of February 2021 and the next community forum will be held following the DCO submission.

EJack 25/3/21

c) **London Luton Airport & NATS Consultation:** Councillor Archer had prepared a letter (approved by the other councillors) regarding the LLA NATS consultation which was sent to our MP & neighbouring councils setting out our objections to the proposed creation of a new stacking area for Luton Airport near St Neots. The proposed routes into the airport would cause aircraft to fly lower over Waresley and other local villages and there seemed to be no real difference in the options provided by the consultation. The proposals will affect the area more than people think. The points raised in Councillor Archer's letter were passed on to the District Council & used in their submission to the consultation. An email will be circulated around the village to remind people of the deadline to submit their views.Chairman to forward Councillor Archer's letter to other affected parish and town councils eg Biggleswade, Sandy, Everton and Ashwell.

Planning: 20/02332/FUL – erection of a Manège – Manor Farm, Waresley
To minute the parish council's decision to approve the application: Councillor Jack had inspected the site and reported that it would not be visible from the road and would be of benefit to the farm. The councillors had approved the plans unanimously.

It was noted that the planning application for a new dwelling along Manor Farm Road had been refused by the District Council on the grounds that it was not within the built-up area of the village.

The application for a polytunnel at the Garden Centre had been approved by HDC.

There was a discussion over the way parish councils decide on planning applications. The councillors do not need to have a technical knowledge of each application, they are there to provide common sense and local knowledge.

Jubilee Light Repairs: A quote for £1850 has been received for repairing and cleaning the Jubilee Light, this includes replacing the 2012 lettering commemorating the Queens Diamond Jubilee which has worn away beyond repair. The clerk will attempt to obtain a further quote from Quinces and the best one will be accepted.

Highways

a) **Update on repairs to damaged bollards and signs at the Jubilee Lamp**
Tony King from the Highways Department (Ian Whitfield's deputy) has made plans for the repairs to the damage by the Jubilee Lamp and they are scheduled to be carried out by the end of February – it is hoped the chevrons by the Manor Farm Road junction will be fixed too.

b) **Traffic Calming Measures**
Possible traffic calming measures were discussed – a crossing on the B1040, a 20-mph speed limit and additional signage were all mentioned. The next round of funding will not be released until later in the year so the matter will be discussed in more detail in the summer when more details are available.

25/3/21

Councillor Gordon was of the opinion that the new 40mph buffer zones seem to be working. It was hoped issues with HGV's will lessen when the new A428 is completed and the demolition & building work on the new housing estate in Gamlingay is completed.

Waresley&Gransden Woods – Closure by Wildlife Trust:A winter walk has been opened in Waresley&GransdenWood.Ingrid Sims and the WAGWAG group have done a great job with getting opened. Kevin Hennessey from the Wildlife Trust has been in touch to advise of the creation of the walk and the unlocking of the gate at Browne's Piece. The footpath along the western edge of the wood between Browne's Piece and the wood is in a terrible state owing to poor drainage. It was noted Charles Mear offered to clean out the ditches years ago which would have helped but this was refused. Mrs Jack has put the Trust in touch with Zaria Bettles of the County Council to discuss drainage and a site meeting was proposed for January, but postponed because of lockdown.

The Trust is appointing anew communications officer for this area who will liaise directly with the local community – it is hoped this will improve things in the future.

Finance:

Audit update – the clerk is in contact with the internal Auditor, the renewed lockdown and Christmas closedown has caused further delay, but arrangements are being made to get the documentation to him to sign off as soon as it is possible.

Payments Approved:

a) Simon Slater – Churchyard Maintenance - £330.00,
b) Cambs County Council – Contribution to 40mph buffer zone scheme £657.40,
c) PKF Littlejohn – limited assurance confirmation admin fee £48.00.

Proposed by Councillor Archer & seconded by Councillor Lawton and agreed.

Consideration of 50th Anniversary of Waresley Parish Council 24 May 2021

The Parish Council will celebrate its 50th anniversary on 24 May this year and there was a discussion on ways to mark this milestone. A village photo in front of the pub was suggested as well as a party were mentioned - other ideas will be considered when we know how much the lockdown will have been eased at that time. The celebrations could also commemorate the end of the Covid restrictions.

AOB: County Broadband are 99% sure they will have enough participants by the end of February to go ahead with the scheme to upgrade he system in the village.

Councillor Archer will ask Highways about position planters at the entrances to the village. Councillor Jack will approach the Garden Centre about obtaining the planters.

25/3/21

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 25March 2021 at 8pm via Zoom.

The chairman thanked all for their participation and the meeting was declared closed at 9.44pm.

25/3/21